



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

ARE TURNIPS AND RUTABAGAS GOOD FOR ANY THING?

This is a strange question to ask at so late a period of the year as this, and yet we often hear farmers—pretty good practical farmers, too—make the remark that they do not consider turnips worth raising, and of course they do not raise them. They say, give us Indian corn and clover enough, and you may have the turnips. This is reasoning at all. That Indian corn and clover hay are among the best kinds of food for farm stock, nobody denies; but it does not prove that, because these are the best, turnips are good for nothing. We have always considered them very valuable, and richly repaying the cost of raising.

A few weeks ago, we published a communication from J. W. Proctor, Esq., of Mass., detailing the experiments of S. Sprague, Esq., of Duxbury, Mass., in feeding out turnips with salt hay with profit. We have fed them to sheep and cattle of our own in connection with the poor and almost unpalatable hay from our hogs, (hog hay,) with good advantage. They should be fed liberally, a quart or two of flat turnips to a cow or an ox is not enough.

We once had a lot of flat turnips frozen very hard during the winter, under a covering of straw. We supposed they were lost. In the spring, when thawed to a mush, one day we discovered that the sheep had found them, and were eating them with a good relish. Fearing that it might injure the sheep if they ate their fill, we took them away and fed them out twice a day. They continued to eat them readily, and to thrive upon them in conjunction with the hay given them.

We do not know by any experiments what particular effect this freezing and thawing had upon the nutritive properties of the turnips—we only mention this fact to show that the sheep liked them even in that state, cooked as they were by the frost.

The September number of the Albany Cultivator has the following communication from a correspondent, which shows the comparative results of his experiments on the use of turnips and Indian meal, which we copy for the personal use of some of our anti-turnip friends:

"Having occasion, a few years since, to feed a pair of large oxen, and having a lot of rutabagas on hand, I tried the following experiment. I commenced in December, when the oxen weighed 3800 lbs. I fed them one week with hay and three bushels corn meal at 75 cents, \$2.25—increased 25 lbs. The second week, I fed them one and a half bushels meal and nine bushels rutabagas—with this they ate very little hay—increased 50 lbs. The third week, fed the same as the first—increased the same, 25 lbs. The results stand thus:

1—3 bu. meal, \$2.25—gain 25 lbs., at 6 cts., \$1.50
2—1 1/2 bu. meal, \$1.12—gain 50 lbs., at 6 cts., \$3.00
3—The rutabagas, at 22 cts., 22 lbs., at 6 cts., \$1.32
4—The same result as the first.

I continued to feed according to 2d experiment, and never saw oxen take on flesh faster and become fatter for the butcher. Be careful always to feed clear meal two or three weeks before slaughter, as otherwise the beef may have the flavor of the rutabagas. My rutabagas cost me to raise about 6 cents a bushel. Cattle never do on rutabagas, and I conceive them to be the only root that will pay for raising to feed. All stock like them. I think them worth more than potatoes by the bushel, as they never sour as potatoes do, while four bushels of rutabagas are as easily raised as one of potatoes."

A WONDERFUL COW.

The Editors of the American Agriculturist have occasionally had a paragraph which seemed to convey the idea, that the accounts of the Oaks cow, of Danvers, Mass., were not correct. But in its last number it comes out with a cow story, that puts that of the Oaks cow to great waste behind it. It is the statement in regard to a cow, exhibited at the late National Cattle Show, at Springfield.

It was exhibited by John W. Brock, of Highland Co., Ohio, mainly of the "Patton stock," so called, with a dash of short-horn blood in her veins. She is seven years old. Certificates were shown by her owner that she had given, for days together, on grass pasture, eighty-eight pounds of milk per day, and that twenty-nine pounds of her milk made a pound of butter!

The yield, calling the milk nine pounds to the gallon, would be equal to thirty-nine and one-ninth quarts a day, making twenty-three and two-thirds pounds of butter per day. This same cow had also given, on the same authority, for a few consecutive days, four pounds of milk every hour, it being regularly milked from her four times per day.

This made the yield still greater, equal to ninety-six pounds of milk, or forty-two and two-thirds quarts per day.

The writer says that he saw her she was dry, and in a fair dairy condition only, and supplied by her owner to be within two months of calving. Her color is a pale red, with a white line on her back, a white belly, and a few white hairs intermixed over her body and limbs; just such a cow in appearance as would eat a great deal of food, and turn it all into milk, and like the Oaks cow drink her skim milk back again, if she could get it, which, by the way, she did not.

Her owner stated, that a year ago, when she had run dry some months, she weighed 2000 pounds on the scales,—therefore, says he, this cow had size enough, she ate enough, was heavy enough to be two good sized cows made up into one! and thus considered, her feats at the pail and the churn are not so incredible. She was an enormously great, coarse, plain looking cow.

that consumed food in proportion to her size, and the milk she gave."

According to the account above given, the cow spoken of must be a great cow in every sense of the word, but we have had cows in Maine, and probably now have, that, taking their size and amount of food eaten, beat the Ohio cow.

The Ingals cow yielded 21 lbs. of butter per week, on grass alone, and she was a little "scrip" of a cow.

We think we can find some others in Maine now that yield more milk and more butter in proportion to their size and weight of body, than the Patton cow.

CERTIFICATE OF A MULE'S CHARACTER.

The mule is considered by many as being a better animal for farm purposes than the horse. No doubt he is more hardy and more long lived than the horse, but he has never been a favorite in New England. He and the Yankee do not like to work together very well. The Yankee likes a good looking nag, even to plough with, and he had rather pay more for a horse, and pay more for a nice harness for him, and provender to feed him with, and then go ahead in "good shape," than be bothered with a mule, at least, so says the common custom of the north country.

The editor of the American Agriculturist has been publishing in that paper some essays on the breeding and uses of the mule, and he recommends the use of the mule on the farm, in preference to the horse. We presume that he looks only to the working qualities of the mule, and not to his moral character, for in closing his article he thus speaks of him. "Let those who are not familiar with the domestic habits of the mule, and have not constant labor for them, never attempt to keep them as a working animal. Sunday is about all the leisure time a mule should enjoy, and even that day he should be in the stable. Turn one or more mules into a pasture with other beasts, particularly horses, if the fences be not at least seven feet high, and strong at that, there is no security that they will be found there when wanted, or that the other creatures in the field, will not have their legs broken or their hides torn into stripes by their vicious attacks."

For the Maine Farmer.

PREVENT THE SNOW DRIFTS.

Mr. Editor:—Winter is soon upon us, and having a word to say in regard to those intolerable nuisances of snow drifts, which, I think ought in most cases, ought to be abated, I will give my views and observations on their prevention.

I would propose first to take down one, two, or three of the top rails of the fence, as thought necessary, on the windward side, or the side that the snow generally drifts in from, in all bad places for it to drift. Many a time I presume there are on all roads as well as ours, places that are sure to drift every winter, if there is any quantity of snow. Farmers might, as now, not feel interest enough to take down their fences, but would it not be for the interest of the State, for the Legislature to pass a law, that those who took down their fences by the direction of the highway surveyor, should be entitled to a reduction in their highway tax?

In Patten, last winter, it cost the town \$250, to break out the roads, and probably it cost the great amount of travel on that road twice as much more. Two years ago last winter, they took down the top rails of their fences, and although the snow was very deep, the roads were not obstructed by drifts any. Winter before last there was but little snow, and last winter they neglected to take down their fences.

A man on the cross road from the Arrostook to the East Branch, told me, that last winter he took down his fences and that there was not the least drift, when every winter before the road had been most severely drifted. Such has invariably been the case with us, and will be wherever tried.

Secondly, I would propose the wire fence, built as follows (if the common wire fence is not safe against hogs, sheep, and other small varmints): Posts for the common wire fence with two or three wires as desired, and then a good rail put in near the top of the post as in post and rail fence, or if scurrying and nailing them on the top of the posts was thought sufficient, that would answer.

Where we see the wire fence we of course see no more drifts than in the middle of the fields, and the difference in cost between building the wire fence, or the one proposed on the windward side of the road, would be but a trifle more than the common fence, and if brought into practice, would, in my opinion, be of much benefit. For railroads, on the side that the snow blows in from, I think this fence would be a great desideratum.

I think that fences built with rails, with either posts or stakes in them, should have a piece of cedar, crosswise, or flat rock, under them near the ends, it keeps the soil dry and sound, and the ends of the post or stakes will last very much longer than when they are on the ground, and wet most of the time. As my pen is in, a few words in regard to cranberries may be worth the space occupied in your paper.

In conversation recently with Mr. Hosmer, of Deer Island, he gave me the following directions for raising them:—

First you want a muck soil from three to four feet deep, which should be overhauled from November to May, if you have a chance so to do, then the vines should be covered with gravel, from the size of shot or coarse sand, to that of a hens egg, at the rate of 20 cart-bodies full to the acre, or in that proportion, which should be spread on to the ice over them in winter, so far as to spread it evenly, then the grass and bushes, if any should be mowed in July, and raked off carefully, so as not to disturb the vines any more than possible. By this means, he says, he has raised them in great abundance and perfection. He looked at my vines and chances, and said I could raise a great quantity if managed in this manner.

I think that were there more knowledge and attention paid to the raising of this most noble berry, it would be a great profit and luxury to the farmers of Maine. In Massachusetts it is raised by a great many farmers, and why can't we obtain their manner of raising it, and raise it as well as they, when it is spread all over the State, and only wants cultivating in the right manner, to grow abundantly?

ALVIN HAYNES, 2d.
Passadumuck, Nov. 28, 1854.

For the Maine Farmer.

ICE HOUSES.

Mr. Editor:—I have noticed in the Farmer, from time to time, sketches and plans of ice houses, but somehow these plans only partially answer. I want to make an ice house, but have hardly courage to begin, from the many failures of others.

Should there not be much better ventilation than is usually the case? Our climate in July and August is usually very dry as well as warm, and the materials of which the exterior of buildings are made, become powerfully heated under the summer sun, so that the confined air when saturated with moisture really becomes a conductor of heat, instead of being an absorbent of sensible heat as it should be. This is the reason why ice deposited in a cellar, however cool in other respects, very soon melts.

I am led to attach more importance to this from an experiment made by myself, with a neighbor, a few years, by depositing a quantity of ice under a single machine where it was exposed to the weather on all sides except the roof of the building. By covering it plentifully with saw-dust, it kept remarkably well, better, I think, than if it had been deposited in an ice house, as usually constructed.

Many persons, unacquainted with the business, deposit ice of a loose spongy texture, which will soon melt and serve to melt the rest. None but the clear solid ice should be employed, such as is found in still water. You will recollect

that I want one for my own use exclusively, or nearly so, and that, what may answer where large quantities are deposited, may not meet the wants of the man of limited means. Any hints or answers to the foregoing enquiries, will be gratefully received by your friend,

N. T. TRUE.

Bethel, Me., December 9, 1854.

PRESERVE THE EYE-SIGHT.

We often hear it asserted that civilization, notwithstanding its numerous benefits, has its counterbalancing disadvantages; and in proof of this, the presumed decline of the moderns, in size, strength, and physical superiority generally, is adduced. Among other declarations of this kind, the injured eye-sight of civilized persons, especially of those living in cities, is brought forward.

But, if all other descriptions of physical deterioration owe their origin, as we have but little doubt they do, to a revolution of the laws of nature, as is the case in this instance, then the fault should be laid to the charge, not of a too perfect civilization, but of an immature one.

For we think it can be shown incontrovertibly that impaired eye-sight is the consequence of excessive or improper use of the eye, either in the victim or in his ancestry. It all the short-sighted, weak-sighted and imperfect sighted persons now alive could be catalogued, and their habits and those of their progenitors thoroughly studied, it would be found, we boldly affirm, their defective vision was distinctly traceable to the ignorance, carelessness, or wanton abuse of the eye, by themselves or their forefathers.

The most ordinary cause of injured eye-sight is using the eye in an improper light. The white light of a cloudless day is that designed by nature for man's use. But this light must not be too brilliant. Reflected from sandy plains, or from snow, this light produces optical illusion, and reflected from red brick walls it is also injurious, though in a less degree; while when reflected from green woods or fields, or even from brown ploughed earth, it is not hurtful at all, as the experience of every man proves, to say nothing of the superior eye-sight of farmers.

Nature, by clothing the habitable parts of the earth with verdure, offers to us a guide as to how we should act in this matter. If the light of the day is too brilliant, we should temper it with green. If, on the contrary, it is dull, we should increase its power by the employment of proper colors. But the worst daylight is nearly always better than candle-light, lamp-light or gas-light. All artificial light is too yellow, and in time will injure the eye. Persons who read or write much at night, must expect to have bad eye-sight, for the strongest eyes will succumb at last to the yellow rays of gas, lamp or candle. The morning is the best time to use the eye, both because the light is then generally the best, and because the eye is fresh from the repose of the night.

When reading or writing is unavoidable at night, the light should fall across the shoulder, and from the left. To read or write with a lamp in front, always strains the eye. To hold the book close to the eye, or to bend down close to the paper, tends to produce short-sightedness; and as most professional men, literary men, and even merchants and clerks do this, hence their frequent short-sightedness and that of their progeny. The improper employment of glasses is a fertile cause of impaired eye-sight. Spectacles, or eye-glasses which are not exactly suitable, are an injury rather than a benefit. Their use should be put off, moreover, long as possible.

They are like crutches, which once introduced, become indispensable ever after. All sudden transitions from light to darkness, or from obscurity to light, are hurtful to the eyes. Small print in reading, or too fine a hand in writing, should be avoided. By observing the laws of nature the eyesight can be preserved to a late period of life. But by disregarding these laws, not only do adults impair their own eye-sight, but they hand down to their children impaired vision, and occasionally even total blindness.

We repeat, that it is not the fault of civilization, but of ourselves, if we have worse eye-sight than savage people. [Philadelphia Ledger.]

WORKS IN THE HEADS OF SHEEP.

Now these worms themselves in the heads of sheep are no disease, nor in any ordinary cases at least the causes of disease. What people call "Worm in head" and "Gub in the head," and all that, and for which snuff and tar, and turpentine are prescribed, is nothing more than a severe cold, with inflammation of these lining membranes. When, however, that occurs, it is very likely that the insects would prove a fresh source of irritation, since they would be wholly, or in a measure deprived of their accustomed food, which is the natural secretion of this membrane; and that being themselves uneasy they would cause uneasiness to the subject. But that in health they do no harm, is evident from the fact that no sheep is without them; even lambs six months old or younger will carry them.

What is the proper treatment? This must be evident. It is not to endeavor to reach the worm with any liquid, since this is utterly impossible, but to treat the animal for a cold; and our idea is, that a sheep is to be dealt with for any disease on essentially the same principles as a man. It is very likely that some of the mixtures squirted up the noses of sheep—merely to run down their throats, for they can run nowhere else—have done some good—allaying the inflammation in the head and restoring the animal to a healthy condition, when all would go on as before.

To treat a sheep for "worms in the head" put him in a warm place for the first thing, either in a warm room or on the sunny side of the house or shed, where the cold cannot reach him. How can a man get cured of a cold in his head if he keeps out in a cool wind? No more can a sheep. Then, if this is not enough, apply warmth to his head or feet, or both, and if anything is given him, let it be something to restore his system to its natural action. Tobacco will very likely do good, since we have ourselves checked a forming cold by being sneezed with a segar. But do not torment the animal by trying to squirt such stuff up his nose; the smoke in his nose is better than any other application of it—and above all things do not imagine that you can kill or root the grub by any such injections, without killing the sheep. [Prairie Farmer.]

HOME-MADE FURNITURE.

In the present pecuniary troubles, many a wife finds an unusual necessity for practicing the strictest economy in household matters. Perhaps house-keeping is just to be commenced, and the great problem is, how much furniture and how many conveniences can we afford to procure. A little money must go as far as possible. Such would perhaps like to be initiated into the art of making cheap articles of furniture, both useful and ornamental. Many a neat and comfortable sofa or lounge, chair, stand, bed, book shelves, &c., &c., have we seen, that cost its owners almost nothing.

A few boards, a little stuffing, and a few yards of shilling calico, put together with ingenuity, will give a tasteful and even elegant air to an otherwise bare and comfortless room. Most of the work we shall describe can be done by the females of the household, and we are sure will afford them more pleasure and comfort than the so-called "ornamental" worsted work, bed-quilt piecing, &c. And in almost every family there is enough mechanical ingenuity among the girls, if not among the girls, to do the saving and nailing.

The Barrel Chair is a very easy and comfortable, as well as cheap and pretty seat. It can be made by taking a stout oak barrel with one end out, sawing half through the barrel at the proper height for a seat, and leaving the other half full height, rounding off the top, for the back of the chair. Stretch stout bagging across and nail it firmly on for the seat, make a cushion to rest upon this, and if the barrel is large enough to allow it, cushion the back also, by taking on sheets of cotton batting, which costs but a trifle at any of the stores, or stuffing with any other cheap material. Now cover the entire chair with worsted stuff, glazed furniture calico, or anything else convenient, and cover the edges with cord, gimp, braid, or even a narrow band of the same.

A simple Lounge can be made by taking a broad, thick plank, strengthening it by nailing on cross pieces underneath, and inserting four short legs; add a cushion filled with any material you wish, and add a valance of the same to conceal the legs. A back and either one or two ends may be added, if desired, by nailing on boards and cushioning them like the seat.

A Cot Bedstead many of you know how to make. Take four sticks about four feet long and three inches square, bore an inch hole through the middle of each, and put a round stick, six feet long, through, and pin through the ends; arrange these like the four legs of a new horse, then to form the sides, connect the head and foot posts by nailing a rod or strip of board on to their tops; take a piece of bagging six feet by four, stretch it across and nail it firmly on to the side pieces. To strengthen them, make a narrow head board, nail on a small rod at each end, and bore holes in the side pieces at the head to receive them. By lifting this bed board out, the bedstead can at any time be folded together and laid aside if not wanted.

A convenient Seat for children, or for the garden, is made like a cot bedstead, with the head board omitted. The sticks for the seat should be one foot long, those for the legs, one foot six inches long. Bind a bit of carpeting for the seat. These are so light, and so easily folded and carried about with one hand, as to be very convenient.

Hanging Book Shelves are another article of furniture easily made, and very convenient. For a small size, take three planked boards one-fourth of an inch thick, let the largest shelf be about 30 inches long by 8 wide, the others each one inch narrower and two inches shorter than the one below it. If convenient, paint, or oil and varnish them. Bore a gimlet hole in each of the four corners, take a stout cord and pass it down through one hole in each shelf, taking care that it is at the same corner of each, then pass it up through the remaining holes in the same end, making a knot in the cord under each shelf for it to rest upon. Pass a cord through the other end in the same manner, and tie the four ends of the cord together a foot and a half above the upper shelf, and hang it up.

To make a Workstand, both light and ornamental, procure from a carpenter an exact octagon, (eight-sided,) 16 inches across, made from two inch plank for the base, and another the same size, of one inch plank, for the top. Bore an inch and a half hole in the centre of each, into which insert a post for a standard long enough to make the whole height of a common table, and cover the whole with furniture calico. For this purpose, sew together like a bag two breadths of the calico, each about three inches longer than the height of the stand; now slip this over the stand, and tack the upper end of the cloth smoothly round on the edge of the upper plank; pass a ribbon or heavy cord round a little above or below the middle of the standard, tying the cloth back tightly, then drawing the lower edge over the base plank, nail it on to the bottom, making the whole resemble an hour glass. Put a little cotton batting on the top of the upper plank, and cover that also. About 2 or 3 yards is sufficient for the whole, unless which is quite desirable, pockets are added. If so, these should be semi-circular, plain back and full front, drawn with a cord. Tack one of these on each side of the top, and conceal the tacks with a row of braid. [Ohio Cultivator.]

THE COST OF INSURANCE. Mr. D. keeps a miserable, coarse-woolled flock of sheep, cutting but two to three lbs. to the fleece, because he does not know that a fine-wooled sheep, yielding a fleece of twice that weight, costs but little more in the keeping than the natives. He keeps only native cows, and makes no selection even of these, because he does not know that cows yielding twice as much cheese and butter, are as easily kept as those that now stock his farm. His sty is filled with long-nosed, raw-boned porkers, because he has never heard of Suffolk pigs, or if so, does not know where or how to procure them. [Am. Agriculturist.]

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE, like the leader of Israel, strikes the rock—the waters flow, and the famished people are satisfied.

DECEMBER.

The unseen Presence with the noiseless wing—
Time—has swept here the hallowed earth at last,
And Summer's green and crimson shores have passed
From out men's sight, like cloud-shapes when winds sing.

The seeds, which from the year's great ripening
Were shaken, and within the warm earth cast,
Live but in future life, and slumbering fast,
Lie waiting for the future breath of Spring.

And all is thoughtful, vacant, dusk and still;
A Sabbath pause, a resting everywhere,
A sleep and a thanksgiving, which now fill
The world, and make the harvest seem less bare.

The winds are laid, no sound is in the rill,
And not a murmur ripples the smooth air.

[EDMUND OLLIVER.]

THE MUSQUITT TREE.

A Texas paper contains the following interesting account of the tree concerning which so much has been said as affording a gum which it is thought will prove an excellent substitute for gum arabic, and the getting of which it is believed, will, ere long, prove a profitable employment for the Indians of the West:

"This is a very abundant timber in many portions of Western Texas, possessing some remarkable and valuable properties. It deserves attention. Although a very compact and heavy wood and generally free from rot, yet the centre portion is generally shivered in circles often as near as two or three inches of the surface. It splits with remarkable accuracy through the centre, and, although a scrubby low growth, its great durability renders it valuable for posts and fencing material. A considerable amount of timber may be procured from it, and for furniture there is scarcely any wood superior to it. It takes a beautiful smooth polish, never shrinks, although put together green. The color is at first a bright brown, and with age assumes a deeper bright brown. Perhaps no wood yields greater heat than this when seasoned. The sap portion is very thin, often not more than one-fourth of an inch thick. If the tree is hacked in the months of June or July, a gum issues in considerable quantities, and hardens from the action of the sun, having all the properties of gum arabic. The decayed wood by being burnt under cover yields a large amount of benzoic acid. The burning of this wood in stores is very destructive to them; the grating and sides are rapidly corroded both by the heat of the grate and acid vapor of the burning fuel. To the soap-maker it furnishes a material of importance. The ashes, instead of containing potash, as most hard woods do, are carbonic acid and soda combined; and by putting say a peck, and half a bushel would do no damage, of fresh burnt quick lime to the barrel of ashes, it will yield caustic soda lye that will make the very best soap. Cattle are very fond of the ashes, as they lick them up whenever a tree is burnt upon the prairies. Another use, it is probable, could be made of the ashes; which is to scatter say half a bushel through each load of corn as it is housed to destroy the weevil. It would certainly do no mischief and would improve the shocks. As a fertilizer there is no doubt it would give valuable results upon worn-out soils; but it is not probable that the application will be made for many years, for the soil upon which the musquitt grows is invariably fertile and of great depth. This tree belongs to the family of acacias."

AMERICAN CLOCKS.

The latest piece of Yankee clock-ingenuity is a clock for the Japan and Chinese markets, measuring time as the hours are counted in China and Japan, the hands making a diurnal revolution within twelve Chinese hours. The characters on the dial plate are Chinese. The inside circle has four characters showing the sun, moon, meridian, east and midnight. The next circle exhibits the old and even hours, and the hands are designated by a bold figure, and the old hours by smaller ones. The dial there had the common minute marks, and at the extreme outside was the Chinese numerals, running from one to twelve. This clock was invented by Mr. S. N. Botsford, of Boston.

Through Chauncey Jerome (now Mayor of New Haven) the British government have reduced the duty upon American clocks from 20 to 10 per cent., and all clocks shipped to England for reshipment to the British Colonies, dependencies or possessions, in British bottoms, are subject to a nominal storage duty in the government warehouses.

England formerly purchased her cheap clocks of German manufacturers, mostly made in Soharwaldt, but since the introduction of the American clock, their beauty and cheapness has nearly annihilated the trade with Germany. About one-fourth of the clocks made in the United States find a market in England for home consumption and shipping.

Bristol, Conn., has 14 factories, employs 440 hands, using \$334,000 in capital, producing 201,000 finished clocks. Plymouth, Conn., has three factories, employs 175 hands, using \$150,000 in capital, producing 70,000 clocks. Litchfield, Conn., employs 30 hands, capital \$50,000, produces 3,000 clocks. Ansonia has two factories, employs 140 hands, using \$132,000 capital, producing 102,000 clocks. Southampton has two factories, employs 45 hands, using \$42,000 capital, producing 40,000 clocks. Winsted has one factory, employs 40 hands, using \$35,000 capital, producing 30,000 clocks. New Haven has three factories, employs 405 hands, using \$258,000 capital, producing 374,000 clocks.—Total number of hands employed in clock making in Connecticut, 1,279. Total capital, 1,002,000. Total number of clocks, 794,000 per year.

WARM WATER FOR CATTLE. Those farmers who have springs higher than their cow yards, can very easily let the water run through the kitchen fire-place and be warmed as much as the most delicate animals could desire.

Has any farmer yet tried the experiment of warming the water that runs into his cow yard? A pipe may be made to run directly through a hollow back log made of iron in the form of a cylinder. By thus conducting the water it would be heated without any extra cost of fuel. Will some ingenious farmer be good enough to try the experiment, and let us know the result. [Massachusetts Ploughman.]

DOMESTIC REMEDIES.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

A GOOD PLAIN CURRY. Cut up undressed or fresh veal, rabbit, or fowl—if the latter, take off the skin. Boil each piece in a mixture of a large spoonful of flour and half an ounce of curry powder. Slice two or three onions, and fry them in butter, of a light brown. Then add the meat, and fry all together till the meat begins to brown. Put all into a stew-pan, pour in boiling water enough to cover, and simmer very gently for two or three hours. A little broth is used instead of water, for cooked meat. Serve with plain boiled rice.

BOCKWHEAT BATTER PUDDING. Mix, early in the morning, one quart of first quality buckwheat meal; add one teaspoonful of fine family flour, a teaspoonful of salt. Into this mixture, stir gradually some warm but not boiling water, till it becomes of the consistency of a thick batter; then add two heaping tablespoonfuls of brewer's yeast. If you use home-made yeast, four spoonfuls will be required. Stir the whole very briskly for some time; cover the pan and place it near the grate. When quite light, stir in a teaspoonful of clear pearlash, dissolved in warm water. Dip the pudding cloth in boiling water, shake it out, spread it in a broad pan and dredge it with flour. Pour the batter into the cloth, tie securely, but with the vacancy of about one-third for the swelling of the pudding. When your water is boiling briskly, put in your pudding, and boil for an hour or more. While boiling, turn the pudding several times, and when done, turn it into a dish, and serve hot. It may be eaten with butter and sugar, or honey.

[Germanian Telegraph.]

APPLE JELLY. Wash and cut the apples in two or three pieces, to see if there be any worms in them; put them in a bright brass or porcelain lined kettle, and cook until the apples are done; take out and strain the juice from them, and put them on the stove again, and boil until they begin to look dark; then add one-third as much sugar, by weight, and boil until they become a jelly; put into cups or tumblers, tie securely, but with the vacancy of about one-third for the swelling of the pudding. When your water is boiling briskly, put in your pudding, and boil for an hour or more. While boiling, turn the pudding several times, and when done, turn it into a dish, and serve hot. It may be eaten with butter and sugar, or honey.

[Germanian Telegraph.]

TO MAKE CORN STARCH. The ripe grain must be washed and ground to a fine meal, and then placed in a glazed mortar, and rubbed and triturated with a small quantity of water, until all the cornmeal particles are broken down. It is then to be transferred to a fine linen filter, washed, and expressed with successive portions of water. The liquid that passes through, must be allowed to stand for sixteen or twenty hours, for the sediment of starch to subside. The water is then to be drawn off and the residue dried in the usual manner. This is the simplest mode yet known for preparing the corn starch for puddings and other useful applications. [Albany Cultivator.]

HOW TO HAVE GOOD COFFEE. Dear regard being paid to the quality of the coffee, Old Government Java being the best to be found in our Western markets, the next thing to be done, is to pick it over, carefully; after which, it should be washed, and dried. Then roast it—being careful that the kernels are equally browned, to a deep chestnut color, and not burned, as that destroys the life of coffee, giving it a bitter and disagreeable taste. Grind it not too fine; then break an egg into it, and stir it till the particles adhere, then turn into the hot boiling water, and let it boil twenty or thirty minutes. After taking it from the stove, turn into it a few spoonfuls of cold water, to settle it. This, with sugar and sweet cream, has no bad taste in it, and is fit for a king; or what is better, for the farmers of Ohio, or any other class of honest people. [Ohio Farmer.]

RECIPE FOR WASHING. Put two tablespoonfuls of spirits of turpentine to one of soft soap, and use the same as common soap. It will reduce the labor one-third and the soap will go further. It has been tested here to the satisfaction of those who have tried it. [Rural New Yorker.]

WORTH KNOWING.

It is said that a small piece of resin dipped in the water which is placed in a vessel on the stove, will add a peculiar property to the atmosphere of the room, which will give relief to persons troubled with a cough. The heat of the water is sufficient to throw off the aroma of the resin, and gives the same relief as is afforded by a combustion of the resin. It is preferable to the combustion because the evaporation is more durable. The same resin may be used for weeks.

FIRE BLACKING FOR DRESS SHOES. Beat up two eggs, add a tea-spoonful of alcohol, a lump of sugar, and ivory black to thicken; it should be laid on and polished like other blacking and left a day to harden before it is used.

SOIL AND PLANTS. Plants seem to alternate with each other on the same soil. Burn down a forest of pines in Sweden, and one of birch takes its place for a while. The pines after a time again spring up, and ultimately supersede the birch. The same takes place naturally. On the shores of the Rhine are seen ancient forests of oak from two to four centuries old, gradually giving place at present to a natural growth of beech, and others where the pine is succeeding to both. In the Palatinate, the ancient oakwoods are followed by natural pines; and in the Jura the Tyrol, and Bohemia, the pine alternates with the beech. Has the operation of natural causes gradually removed from the soil that favored the oak, and introduced or given the predominance to those substances which favor the beech or the pine? On the light soils of the State of New Jersey the peach-tree used to thrive better than anything else, and large sums of money were made from the peach grounds in that State. But of late years they have almost entirely failed. In Scotland, the Scotch fir has been known at one time to die out over an area of five hundred or six hundred acres—and the forests of larich are now in many localities exhibiting a similar decay. [Professor Johnston.]

DOMESTIC GUANO. If ten millions of dollars are paid out of the United States annually for imported guano, is it not time for farmers to commence the manufacture of domestic guano, as it is said, every family of four persons may make a ton, by saving what is now thrown away?

AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1884.

CLOSE OF THE VOLUME.

To those who here part with us we extend our best wishes for their future prosperity and happiness wherever they may be, and to those who now join of cordial salutation, and while we extend to them, too, prosperity, shall do what we can to add to their prosperity as much happiness as our feeble endeavors may admit.

The past year, like its predecessors, has been one of varied events in all the relations of life. It has been marked by a rapid expansion and increased activity of business beyond a proper balance of means, and a corresponding depression as the natural results of such excitement. It has been marked in many of the States by the prevalence of a drought, during the latter part of summer, unparalleled in many sections for its duration and severity. All the results of this drought, on fruit crops, have not yet been developed. One striking effect with us in Maine has been the counteracting of the potato rot, which, for previous years, had been so disastrous to our farmers as, in some instances, to lead to the suspension of any attempts to raise the potato at all. Whether this counteraction is to become permanent, or whether the disease will return on the passing away of the condition of things brought about by the drought, remains to be seen.

It has been also marked by an uncommon number of melancholy accidents by land and sea, in which were involved an unprecedented loss of human life, and production of human suffering and human sorrow. If the experience of the past can add to the wisdom of those who live and are to continue their duties in society, it will be well. The experiences of the past are the best guides for the future, and it is well to study the connections of causes and effects as they pass before us, and to lay up in our memories the results, to serve as way marks to aid and direct us in our future progress.

We hope by these few lines to our friends and correspondents, to make the next volume of the Farmer still more practical, and therefore still more useful and interesting, and ask of all who have not yet given us any assistance in that way, to give us originally, such "jottings" from the store-house of their experience as they may deem useful to their fellow-laborers and will serve the great cause of Agriculture and the productive Arts.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Before another number of the Farmer is out, Christmas will have come and gone, and so we take this time to wish you a merry Christmas. Merry in heart—merry in soul—merry in body—merry in all the social relations and the good things of this life.

Why not be merry on the return of such an anniversary? Not with such a merriest as enlists the thoughts of triflers and fools, but that rational merriment, that real gladness which reason dictates and genuine religion, founded on love to God and love to the neighbor, inculcates.

The religious observances of this day, and the innocent sports which the customs of long ages have established, as commemorative of Christmas, we look upon as productive of good everywhere,—of good to the inner and good to the outer man. It leads the young to inquire into the history of that great event so full of vital and everlasting interest to mankind as the birth of the Son of man.

The inspiring of God—the visible manifestation of God in the flesh, that man might be led and taught and saved by his example, while a suffering sinner journey on earth among mortal men.

Let the heart expand and the soul warm up with gratitude and joy on the return of this day. Let it be festive with the outpourings of grateful song and humble prayer. Let it be radiant with the light of joyous smiles and vocal with the shouts of the innocent glees of the young and the happy.

KIDNEY'S PATENT GAS REGULATOR. This ingenious invention has been introduced here, and adopted by a number of the gas consumers in this city. We have one in use in our office which amply fulfills all its recommendations, making a saving to us of not less than forty-five per cent. on the amount of gas consumed. The Journal of last week has the following notice of this invention:—

"Mr. Ezra Clark agent for Maine Gas Regulator Company has applied this Regulator to the Gas apparatus in our office, which proves very satisfactory. It regulates the quantity of gas that passes, under different states of pressure, and thus gives the greatest degree of light with the least possible consumption of gas. The Regulator has been tried and accurate measurements taken which demonstrate that it saves not less than twenty-five per cent., and in some cases, owing to the degree of pressure, a much larger per cent., say forty or fifty. The light is much more uniform, steady and pleasant to the eye. Seventeen other Regulators have been put in use in this city by Mr. Clark, and have given great satisfaction. The office of the Maine Company for the sale of this valuable improvement is 25 Exchange Street, Portland."

NEW ONE CENT PIECE. We are to have a new copper coin to take the place of our present clumsy one cent piece. The Pennsylvania says that they will be issued in a few days, and gives the following description of them:—

"They are considerably smaller than the old cent piece, and form a really beautiful and attractive copper coin. On one side is the head of Liberty, and the thirteen stars being omitted, the surface is plain and polished. The reverse is the same in design as the old cent, but brighter and much more finished. There is a certain amount of alloy mixed with the copper, and the perfection of the die gives to the coin a finish and elegance that has never before been attained in our copper coinage."

ANOTHER DEATH BY THE OCEAN DISASTER. We find the following paragraph in the Boston Journal of Tuesday, 12th inst:—

"Mr. J. A. Hussey, who was severely injured at the time of the burning of the steamer *Orinoco*, and has since been under medical treatment at the Hospital, died on Sunday of his injuries. He was about 35 years of age, and leaves a wife and children at Danvers, Maine, where he was local agent for Carpenter & Co.'s Express. He was in the same room with the expressman, Wing, at the time of the collision. This makes five deaths from the disaster."

NEW STAGE LINES BETWEEN HALLOWELL AND AUGUSTA. The proprietors of the *Hallowell* and *Augusta*, Mr. Ervin Maxwell, have recently established a new line of stages between this city and Hallowell, which will run regularly four times a day between the two places. This line will prove a great convenience to residents of the two cities, as the stage carries them to any part of the city where they may wish to stop. We hope the proprietors may meet with encouragement sufficient to make it a paying business.

OUR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

Our worthy neighbors of Portland seem to be somewhat troubled for fear that our goodly city has not sufficient accommodations for the Legislature, and those whom legislative business may call here. But we think they need have no fear on that point, for we have room for all, and as *et cetera* to let, and we shall not charge a dollar for a single night's lodging, either. The following from the Journal will give our readers an insight into our hotel accommodations, and render unnecessary an article which we had under way on the same subject. The Journal says:—

"There is probably no place this side of Boston, in a westerly direction, that can compete with Augusta in hotel accommodations. There is certainly no town or city in the State that can boast a better finished, a better arranged, or so more splendidly furnished hotel than the *Augusta House* just renovated by Maj. Baker. The Stanley House, now kept by Geo. W. Ricker, one of the most accomplished and enterprising landlords to be found anywhere, although not quite so extensive in its accommodations, is not behind the other in any of the elements of a first class hotel. Then there is the well known Mansion House, conducted by Stephen Scruton, which is no way inferior to the others in any thing except that the building is not as modern in its structure and style as they are. In addition to these we have several other excellent business hotels which do not aspire to the same grade with the three above named, as well as a number of smaller ones, including the *Augusta House* just renovated by Maj. Baker. The Stanley House, now kept by Geo. W. Ricker, one of the most accomplished and enterprising landlords to be found anywhere, although not quite so extensive in its accommodations, is not behind the other in any of the elements of a first class hotel. Then there is the well known Mansion House, conducted by Stephen Scruton, which is no way inferior to the others in any thing except that the building is not as modern in its structure and style as they are. In addition to these we have several other excellent business hotels which do not aspire to the same grade with the three above named, as well as a number of smaller ones, including the *Augusta House* just renovated by Maj. Baker."

Whole number of persons these houses can accommodate, 600

The *Cushman House* has been recently altered and repaired inside, and is now in first order, and as well as the *Franklin* and *Kennebec*.

In addition to these there are a number of private houses that accommodate Legislative boarders. Among them we recollect, Mrs. Leonard and Gilman Turner, on State Street, near the State House; the *Gage House*, kept by Eben Jones, on Grove Street; John K. Killa on Court Street, near the Mansion House; Charles Hewins on Winthrop Street; Mrs. Eliza Clark on Winter Street; E. G. Coy on Western Avenue; and Chapel Street; Mrs. Fullerton on corner of Court and Swallow Streets, and Eleazer Smith on Dickman place. Fifty or sixty members of the Legislature boarded in private houses last year. There are two or three public houses on the east side of the river, whose accommodations we cannot now give.

All the hotels named above, and probably nearly all of the boarding houses, now have on engaged accommodations for legislative boarders. The price of board this winter must necessarily be high, ranging from three to twelve dollars, according to accommodations, owing to the extra cost of fuel, and the high price of provisions in August as low as in any place of this size, and lower than in larger places in and out of the State."

VERDICT IN THE CASE OF THE OCEAN.

The Jury of Inquest summoned by Coroner Pratt, to investigate the circumstances attending the death of James Robinson, Mary E. Haskell, and Clara O. Stanley, after a session of eight days, and the examination of twenty-five witnesses, returned the following verdict, on Saturday evening last:—

"That they came to their deaths by drowning, by falling, jumping, or having been thrown overboard from the steamer *Ocean*, in which they were passengers, on the outward bound passage to Hallowell, about 11 o'clock on Friday evening, Nov. 24, 1884, between Fort Independence and Long Island, in Boston harbor, in consequence of a collision with the British steamer *Orinoco*, by which occurrence the steamer *Ocean* was set on fire and burned; and the jury say, in view of the respective steamers passing the channel in the night season, with a number of other vessels passing and repassing, jeopardizing so many lives in case of a collision, there was a great carelessness on the part of those having charge of both vessels, by neglecting to give established signals, by not slackening speed in time to keep clear of the course required by law of steamers when passing each other."

(Signed.) Jabez Pratt, Coroner; James Perkins, Foreman; John H. Collins, James A. Moore, Henry Edmonds, Joseph W. Pratt, Harlow Merrill.

The Boston Transcript of Saturday last has the following concerning the wreck of the *Ocean*:—"The wreck of the *Ocean* still lies where she drifted, about half a mile from Deer Island. Light portions of the ruins, consisting of half-burnt and broken fragments of the upper works, have drifted ashore at Deer Island; her mast, charred and blackened its entire length above the water, lies at Point Shirley. One of the boilers of the ill-fated vessel has likewise washed ashore."

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS.

We had the pleasure of being present at the annual exhibition of the scholars of the Universal Sunday School in Winthrop, on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday last.

This exhibition took place at the Universal Church, in Winthrop village, and was under the supervision and direction of our pastor, Rev. Mr. Johnson. There were about 150 pupils of different ages, all of whom had various parts to perform, and all of whom acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to themselves and to the great amusement and gratification of their audience.

Exhibitions illustrative of so much moral and religious sentiment and demonstrative of so much mental application on the part of the pupils, and of so much care and indefatigable training on the part of the instructor are of great and lasting benefit to the pupils. They thus imbibe ideas and sentiments of inestimable value, which they can never forget, and which, through all their lives, even in the far off years of the future, will rise up to guide and cheer and bless them in the darkest and most trying of the world. Mr. Johnson has a happy faculty of directing the tastes and labors of pupils in such exercises, and he is thereby instrumental of implanting deeply and indelibly in the young mind principles of the greatest moment to their future welfare in this world and the next.

WHERE ARE THE YANKEES? Our contemporary of the Boston Post gives currency to the following:—"It is affirmed by scientific gentlemen that the present time of the year, if it could be used as a propelling power, would force a vessel across the Atlantic in 24 hours."

If the "pressure of the times" should continue much longer, we should not be surprised if some enterprising Yankee should fit out a vessel, and advertise to land passengers from New York or Boston in Liverpool, in one day, by his "patent time-pressure engine." He would doubtless find a plenty of passengers.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE K. & P. RAILROAD. We learn that Mr. Stephen W. Eaton, of Portland, who was chosen fill the place of Superintendent of the Kennebec and Portland Railroad, has declined the office, having decided to accept the office of Treasurer and Superintendent of the York and Cumberland Railroad, to which he had been previously elected. This leaves the office of Superintendent of the Kennebec and Portland Railroad vacant again, and we do not learn that there has been any choice of a person to fill it as yet.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

LIFE OF HORACE GREELEY, Editor of the *New York Tribune*. By J. Parton. New York: Mason Brothers, publishers. Here is the life of an ordinary personage, and a book that will be read with no ordinary interest. A self-made man, in every respect, the pursuit of Horace Greeley's course from the humble apprentice, showing even then his extraordinary capacity, to the eminent position he now holds, is one of the most influential and widely circulated papers in the world, cannot call forth latent energies in his own character which he would be unaware of possessing. We regret that our space will not allow us to present our readers with an extract from this work. We shall endeavor to present them with a chapter from this book, in which we would heartily recommend the book to the attention of our readers. It is one of the "books that are books," and is worthy a place in every library.

"Way Down East; or Portraits of Yankee Life." By S. Smith. New York: J. C. De Prebby. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. We presume there is not one of our readers that has not, at some time, laughed over the quaint stories of S. Smith, the "original Jack Downing," as the title page of this, his new work, affirms. We have in this volume sixteen of his best stories. Many of our readers will remember "John Wadleigh's Trial," "The Spectator," "The Yankee Christmas," and other tales, written as only S. Smith can write. The book contains a rare fund of amusement for the reader. For sale by Standwood & Sturges.

LADY'S ALMANAC. Messrs J. P. Jewett & Co. of Boston, have sent us a copy of a new little book published by them, called the "Lady's Almanac," for 1885. It is a little gem for a lady's table, handsomely illustrated, and contains many useful articles on dress, cookery, and other subjects of interest for ladies. It can be found at all the bookstores, and is a very appropriate gift for the New Year.

THE NEW WORLD. When a great and truly magnificent work is presented to the people, one that is designed to be lasting, and combines the perfection of art and mechanical skill, and contains a graphic well-written and extended record of the most glorious history of the world, it is not surprising that it should be more than passing notice from the American press.

This work, of which we have been allowed a look at the proof-sheets, is a ponderous volume, containing nearly eleven hundred large royal 8vo pages, and is just the size that a man wants to occupy an important position in his library, for what American's library is perfect without the most splendid edition of his country's history that he can obtain.

We need not enter upon any extended account of what this work embraces; suffice it to say that it contains the most extended history of every portion of the Western Hemisphere, brought down to the present moment, ever published before. We cannot, however, forbear to mention the spirited manner in which the author has depicted the stirring scenes of the Revolution, and with what a master hand he has traced the annals of all the political parties to the present time.

We are all pleased with pictures, and it cannot be denied that the life-like delineation of incidents, among the most important recent to a volume of history. The publishers have in regard to this we venture have exceeded any thing ever before attempted in this country. They have certainly introduced in this work the most numerous and beautiful set of illustrations we have ever had the pleasure of reviewing. The engravings are from designs by those famous artists, Darley, Billings, Wallis and Dozier, and elegantly colored with soft and fine tints, true to nature, so as to impart a close resemblance to well-finished paintings. This the publishers are enabled to do by their patent coloring machine without extra charge.

The work is printed on extra quality of paper, and bound in embossed morocco, spring back and most elegant. It cannot fail of having the most extensive sale of any historical work ever published in the United States.

Dayton & Wentworth, 86 Washington Street, Boston, are the publishers.

NEW PATENTS. Among the patents granted to citizens of New England, for the week ending December 12, we note the following: B. F. Brown, of Dorchester, Mass., for improvement in securing carpets to the wall; George W. French and William Wagstaff, of Cambridge, for improved method of destroying vermin.

Enoch Jenkins, of Portland, Ct., for improvement in securing carpets to the wall; Jacob Jenkins and John R. Cooke, of Worcester, Ct., for hub bands for carriages.

Edward C. Johnson, of Lowell, for improvement in flyers.

Henry H. Olds, of New Haven, for improvement in propulsion of vessels.

Sylvanus Sawyer, of Fitchburg, Mass., for ratchet machine.

Daniel P. Weeks, of Malden, Mass., for improved hot air furnace.

Daniel L. Winsor, of Duxbury, for improvement in ship's windlasses.

John Andrews, of Winchester, Mass., assignor to himself, Nathaniel Richardson, and Charles Synnott, of same place, for improvement in seed planters.

Joseph Perkins, of Salem, Mass., assignor to himself and Henry P. Upton, of same place, for improvement in trussing yards to vessels' masts.

Design—Nathaniel H. Richardson, of Portland, for design for cooking stoves.

GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

The consumption of Copper in the United States is put down at between eight and nine thousand tons annually, of which only about eighteen hundred tons are produced in the country. About seven thousand tons are consumed by the rolling mills, and distributed over the different markets of the Union, the remaining sixteen hundred tons being disposed of in the manufacture of sheet brass, kettles, wire, buttons, &c.

Important from Nova Scotia. A despatch to the Merchants Exchange states that the Governor of Nova Scotia has, in accordance with the recent act of the provincial Legislature, issued a proclamation repelling the duties now paid by American shipmasters on the various articles which properly come under the reciprocity treaty.

Another Man Missing. A correspondent from Farmington Falls writes to the *Hallowell Gazette* that Mr. Nathaniel Perkins, of Cheberville, was on board the Steamer *Ocean* at the time she was run down by the *Canada*, and has not since been heard from.

Thanksgiving for the Poor of Bangor. The city missionary of Bangor distributed to 118 families the following articles for Thanksgiving: viz: 97 turkeys, 21 geese, 13 pounds of chickens, 120 pounds of rice, 2 bushels of apples, and 12 bushels of potatoes. Cost—\$74.41.

Light Houses. The number of light houses on our coast, from West Quoddy Head, near Eastport, Maine, to Cape Hancock, at the mouth of the Columbia river, Washington Territory, is four hundred and sixty-three, embracing Atlantic, Gulf, Lake, and Pacific Coasts.

Capt. Lucie. The *New York Journal of Commerce* is authorized to say that Capt. Lucie has no intention of going into any business on shore, and is not aware that the directors of the Collins line of steamers have formed any determination to exclude from their employ the surviving officers of the Arctic. Each of the Collins steamers is hereafter to have five boats of an average capacity of eighty persons.

Sugar Boxes. The excellent mill at the ship yard of the Messrs Cooper in Brewer, says the *Bangor Mercury*, has been leased for the winter by N. J. Miller, Esq. of Ellsworth, in connection with two gentlemen of this city, and they have put into the same, three machines for the manufacture of sugar-box shooks. They are turning out a thousand boxes a day. The boxes are now 90 cents to \$1 each.

Steeping Streets by Machinery. The streets of Philadelphia are about to be swept by machinery, the necessary apparatus, Whitworth's patent, having arrived at New York in the Baltic on her last trip.

Man Missing. A young man by the name of Eben Davis, left the town of Franklin, Me., for Ellsworth, on the 29th ult., on foot, intending to return the same day, and has not been heard of since. It is feared he was devoured by wolves. He was a resident of Brooksville, in this State, and had been married but a few days before.

Railroad obstructed by Snow. On the line of the Great Western railroad, from Niagara to Detroit, the storm of the 5th and 6th was very severe. At one point, the track for a distance of two miles, was covered with a depth of seven feet of snow, and trains were unable to pass for a period of three days.

Proposal to buy the Collins Steamers. It is rumored that proposals to buy the three Collins steamers, for transport or war purposes, have been made from both the English and French governments, to the agents in Liverpool, Messrs. Brown, Ship & Co., and that something like \$700,000 has been offered for each of them. Mr. Collins, it is said, has gone to Washington to consult the government on the subject.

Proposed New Steamship Line. It is stated that Mr. Vanosent will shortly start a new line of first class steamships between New York and Liverpool. Two vessels are to be ready in the course of the coming Spring, and six or eight others will be added in the next twelve or eighteen months.

Fire at Kenduskeag. The Carding and Clothing mill, with all the machinery in the same, situated in the village of Kenduskeag, and owned by Mr. Sargeant, was consumed by fire Wednesday night about 10 o'clock; nearly all the cloth and wool in the mill at the time was burnt. Insured in the United States Stock Company, Portland, Me., for \$600.

New Governor of Utah. It is reported in Washington that Col. Stephen, of the U. S. Army, has been appointed to succeed Brigham Young as Governor of Utah.

U. S. Artillery, and is well known as a military man; but what his qualifications for the civil duties of a Governor of a territory are, we are not informed. The appointment of an U. S. Army officer to the governorship of a territory, is an unusual step, and contains an intimation that a knowledge of military tactics may be necessary in the government of a territory as civil qualifications.

Execution. Nicholas Behehan was executed on Friday last, for the murder of an old man and his wife at Riverhead, L. I. Our readers will remember the circumstances. He declared his entire innocence of the crime for which he was to suffer.

Schooner BURNED. The schooner, Caroline, Capt. Mitchell, from Machias, arrived at our wharf week or two ago, the mate being sick with the small pox. Last Friday night the mate died and was buried, and we learn that the captain on Saturday evening proceeded to fumigate his vessel in order to prevent the spread of the disease. A fire in the cabin for the purpose aforesaid, fastened the crew, (of two or three hands) in the fore-cabin, and then took the boat and went on shore. In a short time the mate and the crew were rescued from the flames, but the water's edge was flames. Having no boat, they attempted to leave on a raft, from which they were picked up by the schooner. The vessel was loaded with dry lumber and was burned to the water's edge. Exertions were made from the shore to stop the flames, but without success. (Rockland Advertiser.)

THE ACCIDENT ON THE GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD. We regret to state that Mrs. Taylor, the lady who was so badly burned by the accident on the above road on Friday week, died on Sunday morning. Great hopes were at one time entertained of her recovery, and unremitting attention and acknowledged medical skill were not without their promise of success. But reaction took place and Mrs. Taylor gradually sank under her injuries.

In the grief which this misfortune naturally inspires it is some consolation to be able to state that the rest of the injured parties are all doing well, and we hope will shortly be able to pursue their usual avocations. (Portland Advertiser, 13th.)

THE CLIPPER SHIP GREAT REPUBLIC. This ship which was taken into the Naval Dry Dock at Brooklyn, on Saturday, came out yesterday afternoon. While in the dock, a favorable opportunity was had of viewing her proportions below the water line. Her keel, beam, &c., which remain unaltered, are as perfect as when she was first launched, and she has been rebuilt and improved in the most effective manner, making her a far more serviceable vessel than before. She is 304 feet in length, 43 feet 4 inches in breadth, and will register about 3,380 tons—having one deck less than before. She will be at her dock, foot of Dover street, E. R., in a few days, when her destination will be determined.

(N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT. The annual report of Hon. James Campbell, Postmaster General, is printed in the Washington Union. It is of about the same length as the President's Message, with an appendix about half the same length. We have 221 items for a brief summary of the contents of this important document: There are 23,548 post offices in the United States; the annual compensations of 257 of which amount to \$1,000 and upwards. During the last year \$200,000 each was established at 614 discontinued. Number of postmasters appointed during the same time, 8618. Removals, 1977. Number of mail pieces, 5697. Number of mail pieces transported, 1,067. Total annual transportation of mails, 635,905 miles, at a cost of \$4,630,676; thus 21,257,503 miles by modes not specified, at 5 cents per mile; 20,890,630 miles by coach at 6 cents per mile; 15,433,389 miles by railroad at 12 cents 4 mills per mile; 5,793,483 miles by steamboat at 8 cents 4 mills per mile. Increase in the transportation during the past year, 21 per cent.

The expenditures of the department during the past year were \$5,774,424.12, and the revenue \$5,935,586.29. To the former must be added \$133,483.33, balance due foreign offices, which would leave the total deficiency for the year 1884 at \$1,753,321.23. The deficiency for the year 1883 was \$1,591,799. The increase in the revenue of 1884, compared with the revenue of 1883, is \$970,399.48—or about 18 per cent.

The Postmaster General alludes at considerable length to the difficulties between the department and railroad companies relative to the rates of compensation for carrying the mails. Allusion is made to the habit of irresponsible parties obtaining, in gross misrepresentation, mail contracts, and subsequently throwing them up because of a failure on their part to sell the same at a profit. A remedy for this fraud is suggested.

All expenses of the current year will greatly exceed those of the past year. They are estimated at \$9,841,921.33. This increase will be owing to the additional compensation of postmasters and the enhanced prices demanded by contractors at the whole appearance of the mail.

A uniform plan of registration is warmly recommended as an additional protection for the safe delivery of letters of value.

During the three years commencing July 1, 1881, \$5,507,000 of postage stamps and postal envelopes have been issued by the department, of which \$5,022,301 were sold.

For the last year the cost of the service on the various United States mail steamship lines, and the rates of freight, are as follows: Collins line, twenty-six round trips, \$838,000; New York and Bremen, eleven round trips, \$183,333; New York and Havre, eleven round trips, \$137,500; Astoria and Panama, via San Francisco, two-four round trips, \$248,250; New York and New Orleans to Aspinwall, \$230,000; Charleston and Havana, \$50,000; New Orleans to Vera Cruz, twenty-four round trips, \$37,000; Aspinwall to Panama, \$119,727. Total, \$2,602,000.26.

The service performed by the several lines of ocean mail steamships is treated at large. The Postmaster General is of opinion that the compensation now received is too large, and that the present rates are calculated to drive off private competition. He also states that the Nicaragua company have offered to carry a weekly mail between New York and California for the sum of \$600,000 per annum, which he thinks is a very low price to pay that ought to be demanded. The cost this year for a semi-monthly mail, by the isthmus route, is \$757,977.63.

No progress has been made since the last report. The pending application with Great Britain, relative to the admission of France into the arrangement, as contemplated by the provision in the 12th article of our postal convention. No postal convention has as yet been effected with France; but one is about being made with Mexico.

Arrangements have been made with the Australia line of monthly packets to convey mails regularly between New York and Australia. The rates of freight, and the rates of freight, are as follows: New York and Melbourne, five cents a letter, two cents each for newspapers, and one cent an ounce for pamphlets and magazines. These rates embrace both the United States and the Australian mail.

REPORT OF PENSION OFFICE. The following is the substance of the Annual Report from the Pension Office: "The whole number of pensioners, June 30, 1884, was 11,818. Annual amount payable to them, \$4,070,079. Same, June 30, 1884, 1,055; and the annual amount payable to them, \$1,172,651.63. Whole number of Revolutionary holders on the roll, June 30, 1884, 13,935; number of Revolutionary soldiers on the roll, June 30, 1884, 10,067. There have been taken from the rolls of the Army Pensioners during the year ending June 30, 1884, by death, 643; by transfer to the Treasury Department, as unclaimed pensions, 34; and 152. Of the Navy Pensioners for the year ending Sept. 30, 1884, 24 are reported dead, and 38 transferred to the Treasury Department as unclaimed pensions. Of those transferred to the Treasury Department but few are again restored to the roll."

THE SECRETARY OF WAR'S REPORT. We learn from the annual report of Jefferson Davis, the Secretary of War, that the actual strength of the army is only 10,745. The whole authorized strength of the army is 14,216. The deficiency is fast decreasing by more rapid enlistments. The fact is stated that the army force is quite inadequate to the protection of our frontiers and to punish Indian aggressions. Our entire loss of men in Indian actions during the year is 4 officers and 63 men killed and 4 officers and 42 men wounded.

The increased pay to enlisted men induced the enlistment of 1,005 men in October and September last, against 300 men during the corresponding months last year. The number of recruits required for the service of the ensuing year will probably be not less than 6,000. He recommends the use of camels and mules for military purposes, and asks an appropriation to test their usefulness. An increased pay for officers is also recommended, and, in necessity. Additional legislation is asked, to place the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers of the Army on an equality with the widows and orphans of the officers and seamen of the Navy.

The necessity of a revision of our military legislation in some important particulars is pointed out, in order to prevent conflicting claims in regard to rank and command.

On the person of the Secretary of War, the chief-general in future, and other marked changes in staff appointments, rank, and duty, are recommended.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. This document goes over many of the topics adverted to in the other reports of the various departments. The Department has been eminently successful in ferreting out and bringing to punishment the perpetrators of frauds on the Pension Bureau. Up to the 30th of September last, and since the 4th of March, 1883, 319 persons have been indicted for frauds on the Pension Bureau. Of these, 11 have been convicted; 9 have forfeited their recognizances and fled; 1 has died; 1 committed suicide; 2 have eluded the officers of the law, and 6 await trial.

MAN SHOT. We learn by Mr. Weeks, Eastern stage driver, that an altercation took place on Sunday evening, on board the new ship of Messrs Clark & Wood, of Wiscasset, in the course of which, one, 1855 or 1856, was shot by the Eastern Steamer from Boston of Sunday morning, and passed through to Wiscasset, was instantly killed. We did not learn his name. The facts, so far as we have been able to learn, are as follows: One of the watchmen on board of the ship, by the name of Tibbets, had occasion to go into the fore-cabin, when he was set upon by the sailor, but extricating himself, he passed out and obtained from the mate of the ship a pistol. He then returned to the fore-cabin, and again, when he was attacked the second time by the sailor, who succeeded in throwing him down, and called for something to beat out his brains with, as he said, "disrupt the brain drier." Tibbets drew a pistol and shot the sailor dead. (Boston Tribune, 12th.)

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES IN PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15. Another terrible fire occurred in this city last night, entailing a loss of half a million of dollars. It broke out about 11 o'clock, in the fourth story of Edwards' Block, No. 181 Chestnut street, spread to the other floors, and in a short time involved the entire block in flames. The first floor of 180 was occupied by Messrs. Safford & Cookman, and W. H. Garry, as furniture stores. Their losses amount to \$200,000 each.

The partition walls fell over on to the adjoining buildings, causing the fire to spread to Hemmel's furniture warehouses, and corner of Fifth street, occupied by E. L. Walker, agent for the sale of Chickering's pianos, and Hayman & Brothers, music dealers. The fire extended along Fifth street to Minor street, consuming Messrs. Lacy & Phillips' saddlery manufactory, the Wigwag saloon, and injuring Farmington's bookstore, on the corner opposite.

The Jefferson Wigwag was an ancient revolutionary relic, it being the house in which Jefferson composed the Declaration of Independence, preserved in the property of the city. The extensive workshops at the rear of Edwards' Block, attached to Hemmel's establishment, and containing a stock of finished work valued at \$95,000, and insured for \$50,000. Among the sufferers in Edwards' Block were Bonfield, billiard saloon, and the Waverly howling saloon. Mr. Carrol was insured for \$30,000. The fire raged all night, and the firemen are still engaged in playing upon the ruins. The State House and City Hall buildings are threatened with destruction, but were saved by the exertions of the firemen.

As far as yet ascertained the occupants of the buildings insured lost \$210,000, and are insured for \$385,000. The loss in the property of the occupants have not yet been estimated. The above is exclusive of the loss on the buildings, which cannot be less than \$200,000.

A second fire broke out at 2 o'clock this afternoon, in the same block, above mentioned, and raged furiously until about 10 o'clock, when it was extinguished. The fire was confined to the second floor, and the Waverly howling saloon. Four emigrant and sailor boarding houses were destroyed.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY. While Mr. Edward Willis, one of the most respectable citizens of Kingston, Plymouth county, was in the woods between the villages of Plymouth and Kingston, last week, for the purpose of examining some woodland, he saw a board partly buried in the ground, which excited his curiosity so much that he lifted it up, when he discovered it was placed there by a very large hole. On examining this excavation, he found that it led into an extensive apartment under ground, some fourteen feet square by six feet high. In this subterranean room, there were several pieces of bagging, fragments of bottles, and other articles, indicating that it had once been the rendezvous of quite a number of persons. The place was built of cedar trees, which had been cut down from the vicinity, and the top branches had been taken in different directions, so as not to show the entrance to the spot where the timber was used. It is supposed that the dirt removed in excavating the place, was carried in various directions and covered with leaves to prevent suspicion. It

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